

Gaithersburg Day Laborer Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Activity Center at Bohrer Park

I. Introductions / Statements of Task Force Members / Expressions of Interest in Appointment as Chair

Task force members introduced themselves and provided brief statements regarding their interest in the day laborer issue. Overall, members stressed their open-mindedness and willingness to work on behalf of all members of the community in addressing the issue.

The following members expressed strong interest in chairing the task force: Gloria Aparicio, Barbara Jeanne Fahey, Francis Rose, and Prentiss Searles. The outcome of the vote for chair was as follows:

Gloria Aparicio	4
Barbara Jeanne Fahey	2
Francis Rose	2
Prentiss Searles	6

Prentiss Searles was named Chair. As there was no provision for a Vice-Chair, it was agreed that the Chair would delegate a person to run the meeting in his/her absence. It was also agreed that as Prentiss travels regularly, Gloria would assist him.

II. Task Force Charge – Review

Assistant City Manager Tony Tomasello reviewed the task force charge as follows:

1. Review the information collected by the Ad Hoc Committee as a starting point to identifying the issues related to this topic.
2. Research initiatives undertaken by other governments and/or community groups relating to day laborer issues. Specifically, evaluate the operations and effectiveness of the existing day laborer centers in Wheaton, Silver Spring and other areas in the region.
3. Based on the information collected, compile a list of practical options to address the current situation in Gaithersburg. Prioritize the options, listing the pros and cons of each, and present them to the Mayor and Council.
4. Develop specific criteria relating to a location for a new day laborer center that would be funded and operated by Montgomery County.

It was suggested that work in regard to charge #1 constitute next week's meeting.

In reviewing the charges, it was stressed that the four numbered items constituted the deliverables and that all four needed to be addressed by the task force.

III. Policy for Public Input

While committee members felt strongly about the importance of public input, they were concerned about providing adequate time for task force business within the 90-minute time frame. It was noted that the task force members would need to consult outside individuals and groups in educating themselves on the multi-faceted issue and that it would best be done through scheduling on the agenda. Likewise it was suggested and agreed to that, subsequent to tonight's meeting, public input would be requested in writing. All correspondence from the public should be sent to Assistant City Manager Tony Tomasello or Olde Towne Coordinator Cindy Hines for distribution to task force members. It was also suggested that a timeline be created showing anticipated meeting topics so that the public would be able to prepare and submit written statements in advance of the meeting. Furthermore, it was recommended that a connection be established through the City Website allowing for email submissions to the task force and stressing that all submission will become part of the public record. For continuity it was agreed that submissions would be sent to Tony or Cindy for distribution to the task force.

IV. Task Force Working Structure

Deferred until next meeting.

V. Work Plan Items – Brainstorming

In regard to charge #1, reviewing the information gathered by the Ad Hoc Committee, task force members debated on the best method of obtaining the information. **A motion was made to invite all Ad Hoc Committee members to attend the January 10 Task Force meeting to discuss their efforts with emphasis on perceptions, outcomes and important recommendations that would aid the task force in addressing their charge. The motion passed. (Vote – In Favor: 8)**

Cindy will obtain a list of all task force members and draft a letter of invitation to be reviewed/approved by Chair Prentiss Searles.

The following items were recommended for inclusion in next week's agenda:

30 Minute presentation by Ad Hoc Committee
Task Force Working Structure

Work Plan Items – Brainstorming

Although it was decided that public input would be requested in writing for subsequent meetings, as this was the initial meeting an opportunity was given to those in attendance to share their thoughts.

Chuck Floyd – Kensington

Urged task force to deal with issue of legal immigration and look at enforcing the law first.

Asked task force to look at what was in the best interest of the tax payer.

Encouraged the use of existing employment centers by day laborers.

Brad Botwin – Vice President, Shady Grove Civic Alliance

Felt that the task force was biased and that there was a groundswell of opposition to the day laborer issue.

Steve Schreiman – Gaithersburg

Stated that existing centers in Montgomery County were utter failures and are affecting the shopping center and mall. Alluded to increased criminal and gang activity.

Noted that task force would be remiss if they did not take into account the problem with using taxpayer money on illegal immigrants.

Anna Marie Robinson

Noted that she attended the meeting to hear from the task force and asked that they be respected for what they are trying to accomplish.

Rev. David Rocha

Made the following requests on behalf of the day laborers:

- Provide a translator for meetings
- Provide an opportunity to be heard at a future meeting.

Edward Mastel

Questioned item #4 of the charge and asked if it was a forgone conclusion that the City of Gaithersburg would establish a Day Laborer Center. If not, he suggested that the question be put on the ballot.

Mike Stumborg

Wanted to thank task force members for their time.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.